

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/062 W

-----049146 091457Z /46

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6852

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, FR

SUBJECT: CGT RESUMES THE OFFENSIVE

1. SPEAKING AT A WORKER OCCUPIED FACTORY IN BORDEAUX, CGT GENERAL SECRETARY GEORGES SEGUY, JUST BACK FROM VACATION, ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY FOR FRANCE'S UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS; AND HINTED THAT ANOTHER NATIONAL STRIKE MAY BE CALLED THIS FALL TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT INTO "SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS" WITH THE CGT ON WHAT TO DO. SEGUY DISMISSED THE GOVERNMENT'S EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS AS USELESS, AND NOTED THAT HE HAD JUST VISITED OTHER COUNTRIES, "SUCH AS HUNGARY", WHERE THERE WAS NO UNEMPLOYMENT. HENCE, SEGUY SAID, IT WAS UNTRUE TO CLAIM THAT THERE WAS A UNIVERSAL UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM WHICH FRANCE HAS TO

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ENDURE ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE. THE MEANS TO END UNEMPLOYMENT, SEGUY SAID, ARE AVAILABLE.

2. SEGUY SINGLED OUT THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY AS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION, AND SAID THAT THE NATIONALIZATION OF THAT ENTIRE INDUSTRY WAS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. HE

INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE HEADS OF FRANCE'S FOUR OTHER MAJOR UNIONS :CFDT, FO, CGC AND CFTC) ACCOMPANY HIM TO LORRAINE TO STOP THE ANNOUNCED LAY-OFFS THERE.

3. COMMENT: THE FALL OFFENSIVE HAS BEGUN A BIT EARLY. SEGUY, WHOSE SPEECH FOLLOWS A BARRAGE OF GOVERNMENT INSPIRED STORIES ABOUT THE STPS IT IS TAKING TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT, ONCE AGAIN HAS PRESUMED TO SET HIMSELF UP AS CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR ORGANIZED LABOR, AND HAS RENEWED HIS DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIM. IN SINGLING OUT THE STEEL LAYOFFS FOR SPECIAL MENTION, SEGUY IS NOT ONLY COMMENTING ON A MAJOR PROBLEM OF THE DAY, BUT ALSO TAKING INDIRECT ADVANTAGE OF AN FO ERROR. ALONE OF ALL THE UNIONS, FO RECENTLY SIGNED, AND THERBY VALIDATED, AN AGREEMENT ON THE REDUCTION OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY. THIS AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN USED BY THE EMPLOYERS AS THE BASIS FOR ANNOUNCED LAY-OFFS, WHICH HAVE BEEN VARIOUSLY REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS INVOLVING THE SUPPRESSION OF ANYWHERE BETWEEN 13,500 AND 2,500 JOBS. (THE EXACT NUMBER OF ACTUAL LAYOFFS WHICH WILL RESULT IS UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME AND PROBABLY CAN'T BE FIXED WITH ANY DEGREE OF CERTAINTY UNTIL THE MEASURES ARE PUT INTO EFFECT.) FO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS DENOUNCED THIS MOVE AS NOT BEING IN ACCORD WITH THE AGREEMENT; AND THE OTHER UNIONS HAVE ALL ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT DEMANDING THAT THEPLAN BE SUSPENDED. ALTHOUGH FO IS NOW SEEKING THE MINISTER OF LABOR'S SUPPORT OF ITS INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT, AND MAY POSSIBLY PROVE ITS CASE, IT HAS THE APPEARANCE OF HAVING BEEN TAKEN IN BY MANAGEMENT AND SEGUY AND HIS FRIENDS WILL BE MAKING THE MOST OF IT. HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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